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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Assistant Secretary Thomas-Greenfield to Lead U.S. Delegation at U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission Meeting

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield will lead a U.S. delegation in the Governance, Transparency, and Integrity Working Group meeting of the United States-Nigeria Binational Commission (BNC) to be held in Abuja, Nigeria, February 17-18.

The Governance, Transparency, and Integrity Working Group will look toward the continued integration of civil society into the electoral process prior to the 2015 national elections, which will mark another milestone building upon Nigeria's last elections. One aim of the BNC is to support the establishment of benchmarks for transparent and inclusive elections.

On governance issues, corruption is a potential impediment to effective governance and economic development in Nigeria. Through the BNC we aim jointly to improve Nigeria's capacity to fight corruption.

The U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission was inaugurated on April 6, 2010 in Washington, D.C. by former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former Secretary to the Government of the Federation Yayale Ahmed. The commission allows for dialogue and strategic thinking designed to expand mutual cooperation across a broad range of shared interests. It is also a collaborative forum to build partnerships for tangible and measurable progress on issues critical to the United States and Nigeria.

Participation in the commission meeting reflects the commitment of the United States and Nigeria to their strong bilateral relationship. The United States supports the aspirations of the Nigerian people for a peaceful, prosperous, stable, and democratic future.

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